

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for treating the skin, comprising the steps of:
 - a) pre-treating the skin with a topical collagen-promoting agent;
 - b) producing a wound in the high dermis of the skin;
 - c) treating the skin chronically with said topical collagen-promoting agent after producing said wound in the high dermis; and
 - d) maintaining the high dermis in a chronically wounded condition through a plurality of wounding events, preventing the wound from healing.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of pre-treating and chronically treating the skin with a blood vessel promoting agent.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said collagen-promoting agent is retinoic acid.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein said blood vessel promoting agent is retinoic acid.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of producing a wound in the high dermis is performed by exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light, wherein said contaminant is capable of absorbing said laser light.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said production of a chronic wound in the high dermis leaves the epidermis intact.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of producing a chronic wound in the high dermis is performed by exploding a contaminant on the skin with laser light repeatedly within a six month period of said pre-treating step.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of maintaining a chronic wound in the high dermis is performed by exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light at least once every twelve months.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of producing and maintaining a chronic wound in the high dermis are performed by exploding a contaminant on the skin with a laser light having a wave length of from about 800nm to 1200nm, a pulse frequency of from about 1 to 20 per second, a pulse duration of from about 0.001 to 1 microsecond, and a fluence of from about 1 to 3 J/cm².
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said laser light has a wavelength of about 1064nm, a pulse frequency of about 10 per second, a pulse duration of about 0.01 microsecond, and a fluence of about 2.5 J/cm².
11. The method of claim 3 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 4 to 16 times per month.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 1 to 4 times per week.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 2 times per week.
14. The method of claim 3 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of from about 0.05% to 1%.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of about 0.1%.
16. The method of claim 3 wherein the pre-treating step is performed for two weeks.

17. The method of claim 5 wherein producing a wound in the high dermis is completed in about two to ten minutes.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein producing a wound in the high dermis is completed in about four minutes.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein said method for treating the skin is used to rejuvenate the skin and to remove broken blood vessels, angiomas, scars, lines, wrinkles, pigmentation, and redness in the skin.
20. The method of claim 1 wherein said method for treating the skin is used to treat acne, warts, cold sores, eczema, psoriasis, and infections of the skin.
21. A process for treating the skin, comprising the steps of:
- a) pre-treating the skin with topical retinoic acid;
 - b) producing a chronic wound in the high dermis of the skin by exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light, wherein said contaminant is capable of absorbing said laser light;
 - c) treating the skin chronically with said retinoic acid after producing said chronic wound; and
 - d) maintaining the high dermis in a chronically wounded condition through a plurality of wounding events by exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light at least once every twelve months, keeping the wound from healing.
22. The process of claim 21 wherein the epidermis is left intact.

23. The process of claim 22 wherein the step of pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid comprises two weeks.
24. The process of claim 22 wherein exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light is completed within about two to ten minutes.
25. The process of claim 24 wherein exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light is completed within about four minutes.
26. The process of claim 22 wherein the step of producing a chronic wound in the high dermis comprises exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light two to twelve times within a six month period after pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid.
27. The process of claim 26 wherein the step of producing a chronic wound in the high dermis comprises exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light six times within a six month period after pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid.
28. The process of claim 22 wherein said laser light has a wave length of from about 800nm to 1000nm, a pulse frequency of from about 1 to 20 per second, a pulse duration of from about 0.001 to 1 microsecond, and a fluence of from about 1 to 3 J/cm².
29. The process of claim 28 wherein said laser light has a wave length of about 1064nm, a pulse frequency of about 10 per second, a pulse duration of about 0.01 microsecond, and a fluence of about 2.5 J/cm².
30. The process of claim 22 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 4 to 16 times per month.
31. The process of claim 30 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 1 to 4 times per week.

32. The process of claim 31 wherein said retinoic acid is applied to the skin 2 times per week.
33. The process of claim 22 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of from about 0.05% to 1%.
34. The process of claim 33 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of about 0.1%.
35. The process of claim 22 wherein said method is used to rejuvenate the skin and to remove broken blood vessels, angiomas, scars, lines, wrinkles, pigmentation, and redness in the skin.
36. The process of claim 22 wherein said method is used to treat acne, warts, cold sores, eczema, psoriasis, and infections of the skin.
37. The process of claim 29 wherein said laser light is produced by a Q-switched Nd:YAG laser.